

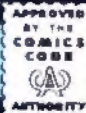
2001: A SPACE  
ODYSSEY

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BASED ON CONCEPTS  
FROM THE MGM/  
STANLEY KUBRICK  
PRODUCTION



MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



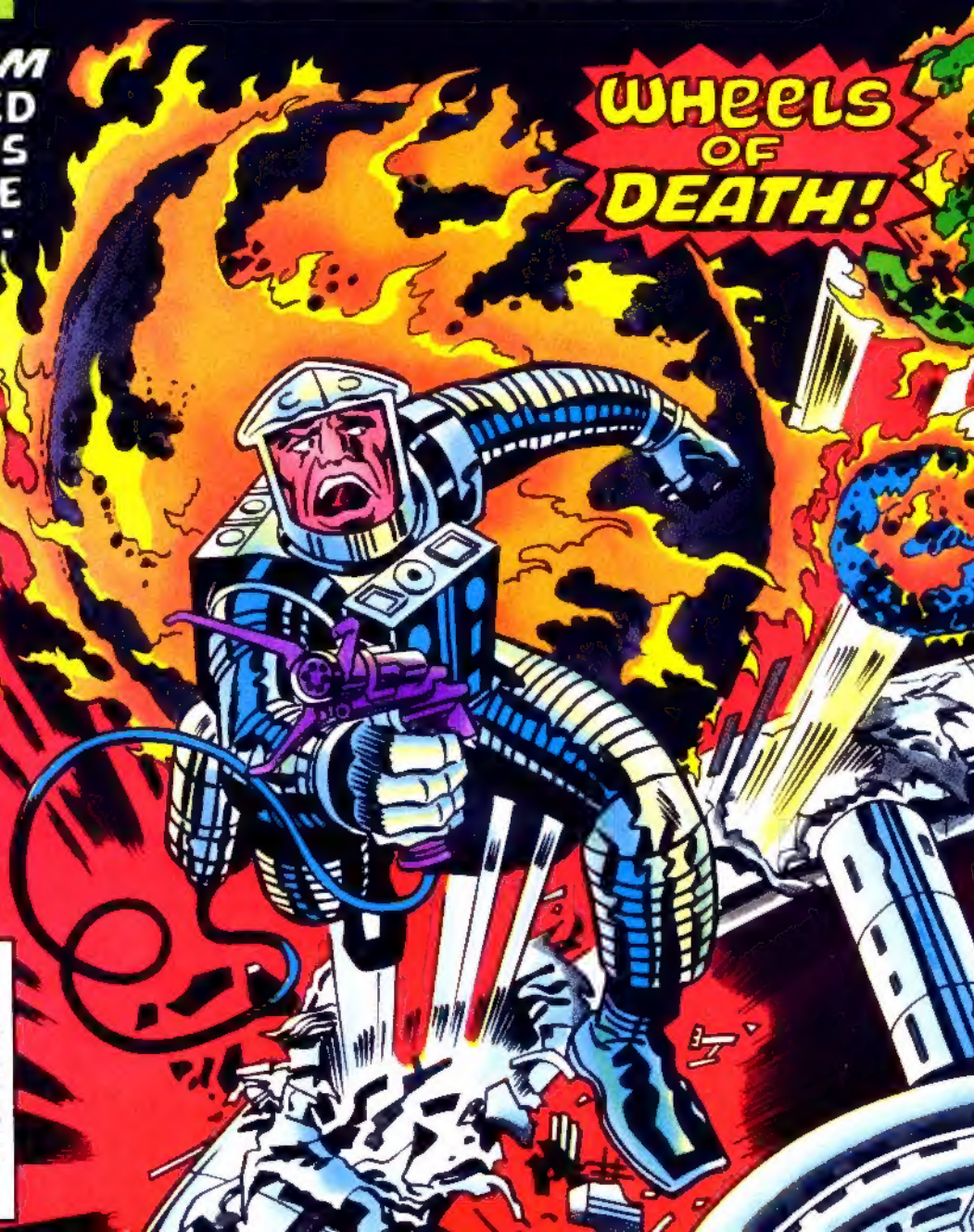
BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

# 2001!

## A SPACE ODYSSEY

AS DOOM  
PURSUED  
HIM, HIS  
NEW LIFE  
BEGAN..

WHEELS  
OF  
DEATH!





STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: **JACK KIRBY** \* INKED AND LETTERED BY: **MIKE ROYER** \* COLORED BY: **GLYNIS WEIN** \* CONSULTING EDITOR: **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

ONE MAN'S SENSE OF DESTINY SPARKS A REVOLUTION IN THE EARLY DAWN OF TIME!! IS IT AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY--OR THE PLAN OF AN ALIEN INTELLIGENCE?? ALL WE KNOW IS THAT SOMEWHERE, AT SOME DATE IN THE DISTANT PAST--

SOMEONE RODE THE--

## WHEELS OF DEATH!!

PART TWO  
OF "MARAK--THE  
WARRIOR KING!"

THIS IS THE MONOLITH!  
WAS ITS PRESENCE IN THE  
PAST A CLUE TO MAN'S  
FUTURE?

WE WON'T GIVE  
THEM TIME!

GO FORWARD  
AND STRIKE HARD!!

THE ENEMY  
GATHERS  
TO STOP US,  
MARAK!!



IT WILL BE SOME 200,000 YEARS BEFORE NAPOLEON SWEEPS ACROSS EUROPE TO A WINTRY DEFEAT IN RUSSIA... BUT MARAK HAS ALREADY FORGED A UNIFIED ARMY FROM A SMALL NUCLEUS OF STONE AGE HUNTERS. WHEN HE MEETS THE INVENTOR OF THE WHEEL, MARAK MOVES AGAINST THE WORLD!!

SMASH THE FOE!!

HE CANNOT STAND AGAINST US!!

FORWARD!! FORWARD!! WE ARE INVINCIBLE!!

DEATH TO ALL WHO OPPOSE US!!

TAKE ALL THOSE WE DO NOT KILL--

--AND MAKE THEM PART OF US!

THUS, WE GROW LARGER!

THUS, WE CONQUER!!

SEE! THEY ARE EVIL SPIRITS!

THEIR WEAPONS FLASH IN THE SUN-- LIKE FIRE!!

THEY HAVE HARNESSSED DEMON BEASTS WHO MOVE LIKE THE WIND!!

FLEE, YOU VERMIN! FLEE BEFORE THE FIGHTERS OF MARAK !!!



THE ENEMY IS FEAR-STRICKEN!! HE MAKES A FEEBLE ATTEMPT AT RESISTANCE--BUT WEAPONS OF STONE ARE NO MATCH FOR WHAT MARAK HURLS AGAINST THEM!

HOLD FAST!!

BUT OUR SPEARS CAN'T STOP THEM!!

THIS MARAK IS A DEMON'S OWN WHELP!!



STONE AGE AXES, SPEARS AND ARROWS FLY AND SHATTER AGAINST TEMPERED METAL! THE ENEMY, LIKE HIS WEAPONS, FINDS HIMSELF OUTCLASSSED AND OBSOLETE!!

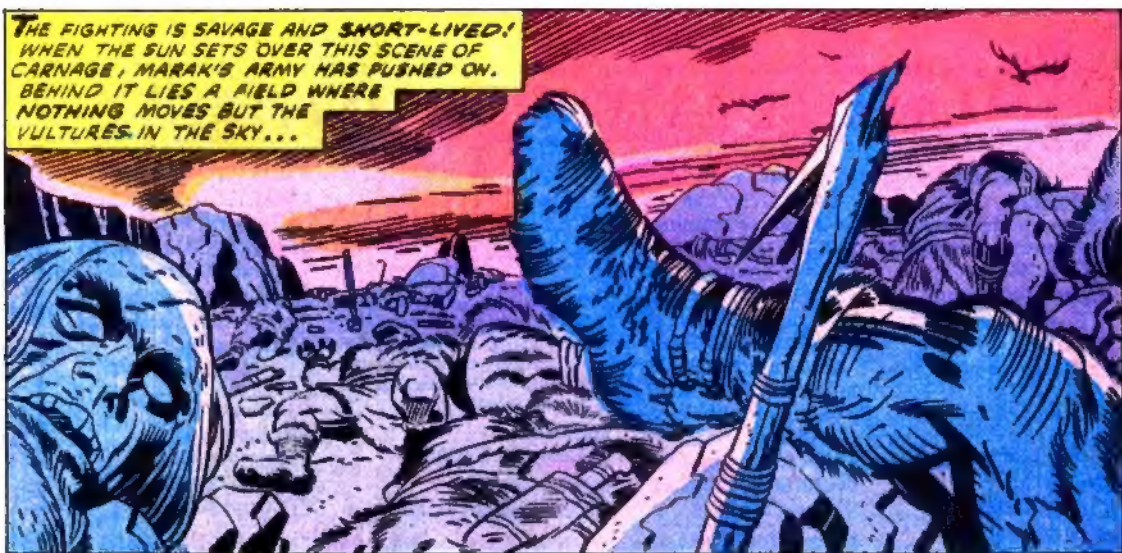


GRIES OF DISMAY TURN TO HOWLS OF PAIN!! IT IS THE DAY OF THE SWORD-- AND THE SWORD BELONGS ONLY TO MARAK'S RAIDERS!! THEY CUT THROUGH THE ENEMY LIKE REAPERS THROUGH A FIELD OF WHEAT!





THE FIGHTING IS SAVAGE AND SHORT-LIVED!  
WHEN THE SUN SETS OVER THIS SCENE OF  
CARNAGE, MARAK'S ARMY HAS PUSHED ON.  
BEHIND IT LIES A FIELD WHERE  
NOTHING MOVES BUT THE  
VULTURES IN THE SKY...



BUT MARAK'S CAMPAIGN IS FAR FROM  
OVER!! HIS RAIDERS TRAVEL SWIFTLY  
AND TRAVEL FAR. A VILLAGE  
BURNS WHEREVER THEIR  
WHEEL TRACKS CAN BE  
SEEN...



THUS, THE NAME OF MARAK REACHES ACROSS  
UNDREAMED OF DISTANCES. THOSE WHO  
ESCAPE HIS SWORD CARRY TALES THAT  
PAINT HIS IMAGE IN WORDS OF TERROR!



THERE COMES A DAY WHEN THIS FEAR SPREADS  
TO JALESSA'S LAND. HERE, THE WORD IS  
CARRIED BY RUNNERS WHO COMPOSE THE  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM DEVISED BY THE  
WISE RULER HERSELF...



THIS IS BAD  
NEWS! JALESSA  
MUST LEARN  
OF IT!



ALONG A CHAIN OF STONE OUT-  
POSTS, EACH RUNNER DELIVERS  
THE MESSAGE TO THE  
NEXT...

WHAT I  
HAVE TOLD  
YOU IS TRUE!  
CARRY THIS  
NEWS TO  
JALESSA!!

I  
START  
AT  
ONCE!



THE NAME OF MARAK REACHES THE FABLED RULER WHO RECEIVES IT WITH A COOL AND STUDIED SERENITY...



SURELY JALESSA CANNOT IGNORE MY MESSAGE!

OUR RUNNERS NEVER LIE, FAIREST ONE!

SO IT SEEMS.

THIS PLACE IS IN GREAT DANGER!!

LIKE THE RULERS BEFORE HER, JALESSA HAS BEEN TRAINED TO DISTILL FACT FROM WILD EXAGGERATION. IT IS EVIDENT THAT SOME UNKNOWN BARBARIAN HAS GATHERED A SIZABLE FORCE AND HAS MOVED IT ACROSS A VAST DISTANCE. SHE BEGINS TO REFLECT MORE UPON THE MAN, THAN UPON THE DANGER...



THIS IS A TIME WHEN WE SHALL BE SORELY TESTED!

THERE WILL BE ANSWERS IN THE SPIRIT CHAMBER. I MUST NOT BE DISTURBED!

YOU SHALL BE OBEYED.

JALESSA IS THE DESCENDANT OF A LINE OF FEMALE RULERS WHO ESTABLISHED A MATRIARCHY WHICH HAS FLOURISHED AND GROWN AND GATHERED TO IT MANY TRIBES IN NEED OF WISDOM.



B-BUT, THIS MAY BE THE END OF US, IF WE DO NOT ARM FOR BATTLE THIS VERY MOMENT!!

THE TERROR SWEEPS FORWARD LIKE THE WIND, WISE ONE!

YOUR WORDS ARE NOT LOST ON ME!

THE SPIRIT CHAMBER IS APTLY NAMED—FOR THERE IS A SPIRIT HERE. IT REVEALS ITSELF TO JALESSA ALONE. WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES, IT HOVERS ABOVE A GREAT PIT AND GIVES HER A COUNSEL ON MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS.



THIS MARAK I AM TOLD TO FEAR, SEEMS MORE LIKE A VISION OF DESTINY THAN A DEMON FROM THE MOUTH OF DARKNESS!



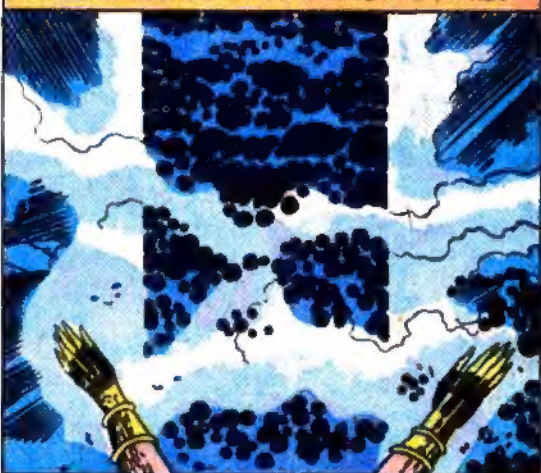
JALESSA FEELS A STRANGE STIRRING IN THE CHAMBER AND KNOWS THAT THE LINK BETWEEN HERSELF AND THE STONE SPIRIT GROWS STRONGER. SOON, IT WILL APPEAR...

COME TO ME, SPIRIT!

WEAVE YOURSELF INTO BEING, AS DESTINY WEAVES MY LIFE WITH THE FIBERS THAT SHAPE LIVES EVERYWHERE.



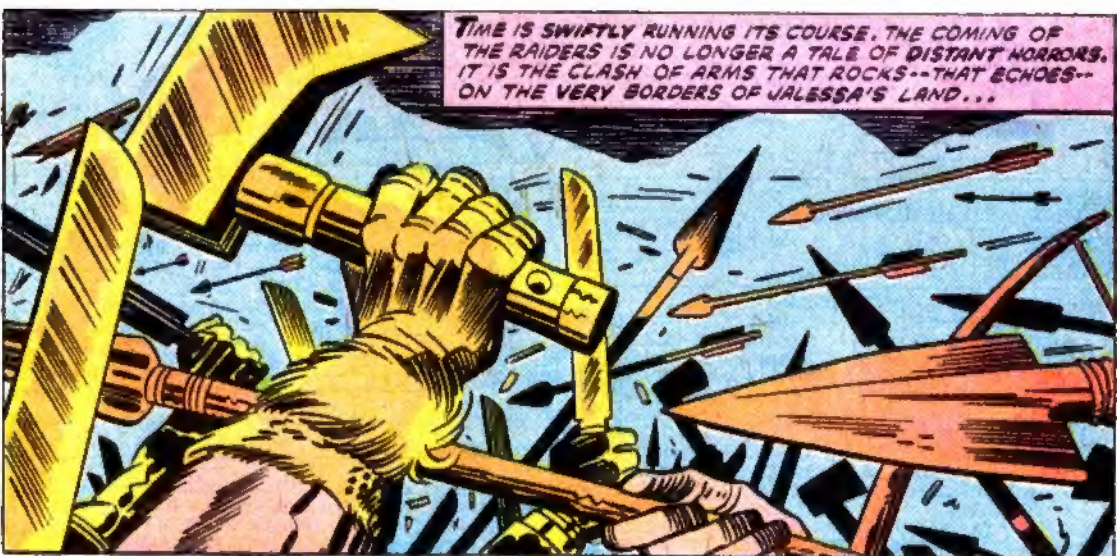
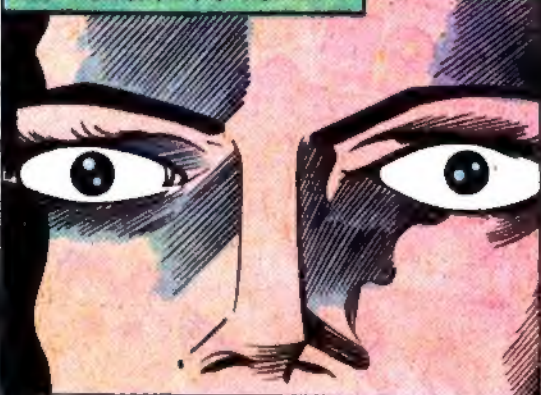
THE MONOLITH APPEARS IN A PATTERN OF CRACKLING ENERGY, ALIEN TO THE EARTH. IT PROJECTS SOUNDS MADE AMONG THE STARS.



A STRANGE BOND EXISTS BETWEEN THESE TWO. YET, JALESSA IS UNAWARE THAT IT HAS APPEARED TO OTHERS--TO MARAK AS WELL. THE GIRL MOVES FORWARD TO STAND IN THE EERIE GLOW...



THEN, HER EVERY THOUGHT FLIES OPEN TO THE INSCRUTABLE STONE, AS VISIONS POUR INTO HER MIND IN EXCHANGE. FOR MANY LONG MINUTES SHE WILL RECEIVE THESE IMAGES WITHOUT FEAR. THEY WILL MOLD HER FUTURE--AND HUMANITY'S ALIKE.



TIME IS SWIFTLY RUNNING ITS COURSE. THE COMING OF THE RAIDERS IS NO LONGER A TALE OF DISTANT HORRORS. IT IS THE CLASH OF ARMS THAT ROCKS--THAT ECHOES--ON THE VERY BORDERS OF JALESSA'S LAND...



**IT IS A FORCE PROTECTED BY METAL SHIELDS!!**

THE FOE STRIKES!  
BUT HE DOES NOT  
WOUND!

DRIVE  
THEM  
FROM THE  
FIELD!!



**IT IS CAVALRY! FEARSOME AND DEADLY, IT  
THUNDERS TO ITS TASK WITH A KILLING  
EFFICIENCY NEVER SEEN BEFORE!!**

WE'VE  
BROKEN  
THEIR  
RANKS!  
IT'S A  
ROUT!!

AFTER THEM!  
PURSUE THEM TO  
THE LAST MAN!!



**IT IS A CARAVAN OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES THAT  
MOVES WITH THE RAIDERS ACROSS VAST DISTANCES.  
MARAK HAS REVOLUTIONIZED TRIBAL WARFARE  
ON A GRAND SCALE.**

FASTER, YOU  
DULLARDS!  
WE'VE LOST  
SIGHT OF  
OUR FIGHTERS!

DOES  
MARAK  
NEVER  
WEARY  
?

ARE WE EVER  
TO REACH THIS  
JALESSA'S LAND!?

SEE TO  
THE  
STRAGGLERS!  
MOVING!

KEEP  
THEM  
MOVING!



**THIS IS MARAK'S DREAM, NEARING ITS FRUITION!  
THE VISIONS WHICH HAVE PLAGUED AND DRIVEN  
HIM ARE ALMOST A REALITY!!**

ONWARD!  
ONWARD!!



**FINALLY, THERE ARE NO MORE HILLS TO BE  
CROSSED. THE PRIZE STANDS BEFORE HIM ON A  
GREAT UNBROKEN PLAIN. THE WALLS--THE  
LARGE MOUND-LIKE STRUCTURES-- AT LAST  
ARE WITHIN HIS GRASP!**

JALESSA'S  
LAND! THIS  
IS WHERE  
SHE RULES!!





**BUT AWAITING MARAK'S BLOW IS A DEFENSE OF MASSIVE SIZE. THE WALLS BRISTLE WITH WEAPONS AND ORGANIZATION. EQUAL TO HIS OWN. MANY ARE DESTINED TO DIE ON BOTH SIDES.**



BEHOLD!  
THE RAIDERS  
ARE AT OUR  
VERY GATES!

THAT IS A  
MIGHTY HOST!  
BUT THEY  
SHALL KNOW  
DEFEAT  
THIS DAY!

THEY SHALL  
ALSO GET  
THEIR FIRST  
TASTE OF  
FLAMING  
PITCH!

FORM THE  
BATTLE LINE!  
MOVE FORWARD  
WHEN THE WORD  
IS GIVEN!!

**EVENTS SEEM PERCHED ON THE EDGE OF SLAUGHTER WHEN HUGE GATES ARE SUDDENLY FLUNG OPEN. A HORSE PLUNGES THROUGH, BEARING A FEMALE RIDER...**



MAKE  
WAY!

MAKE  
WAY!

**THIS DEVELOPMENT IS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED. THE FEMALE RIDES WITH PURPOSE TOWARD THE RAIDERS...**



SEE, MARAK! THE  
ENEMY SENDS US  
A FEMALE! SHALL  
I SEIZE HER?

HOLD YOUR  
PLACE! SEIZE  
HER AT YOUR  
PERIL!

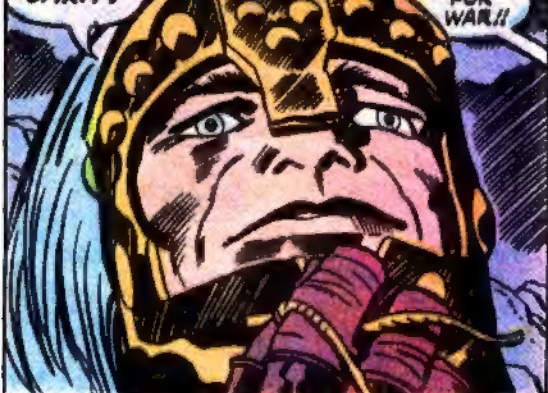
**THE GIRL HALTS HER MOUNT BEFORE MARAK. HER GAZE FASTENS UPON THE FACE BENEATH THE HELMET SHE PROBES THE EYES. NOW WIDE WITH WONDER...**



YOU ARE A STRANGER,  
YET I HAVE SEEN  
YOU BEFORE.

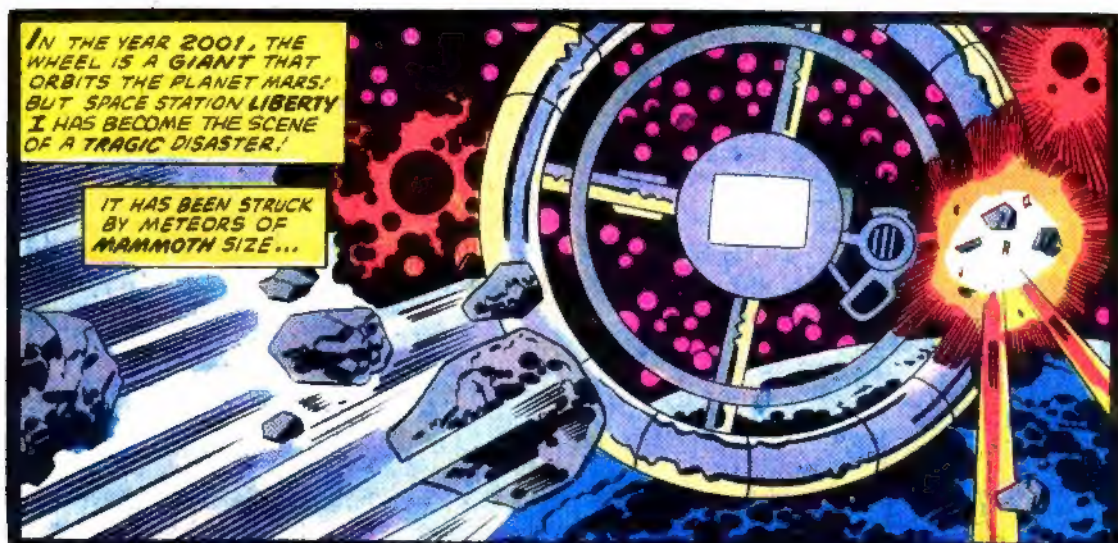
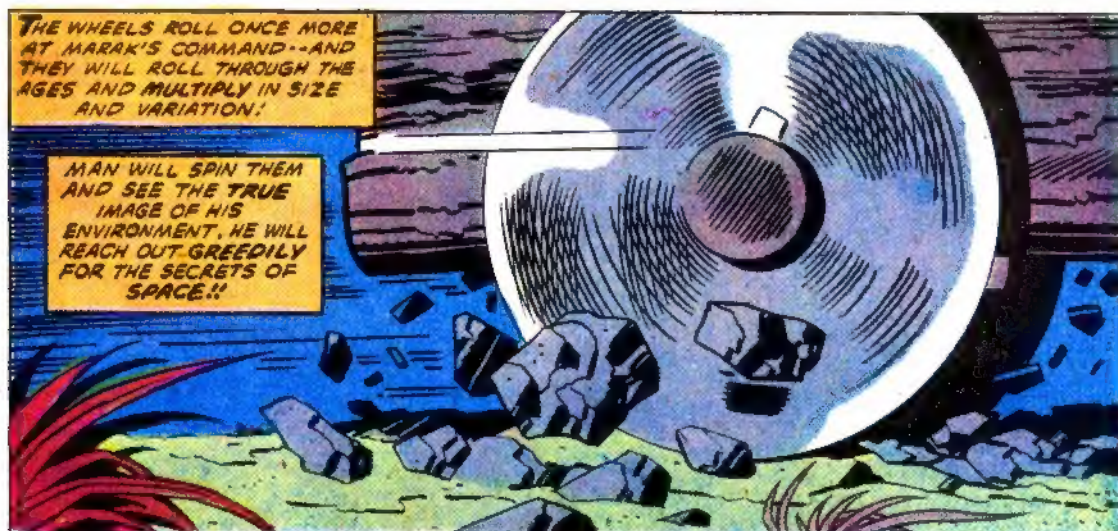
HAVE  
YOU  
EVER  
SEEN  
ME?

MANY TIMES, IN A  
THOUSAND DREAMS!  
AND ONCE, IN A  
BRIGHT VISION  
INSPIRED BY  
A STONE  
SPIRIT!



REMOVE YOUR  
HELMET, MARAK!  
AS YOU CAN  
SEE -- I AM  
NOT  
DRESSED  
FOR WAR!!









THAT WAS A  
BAD HIT! IT'S  
WRECKED THE  
UTILITY  
SECTIONS!!

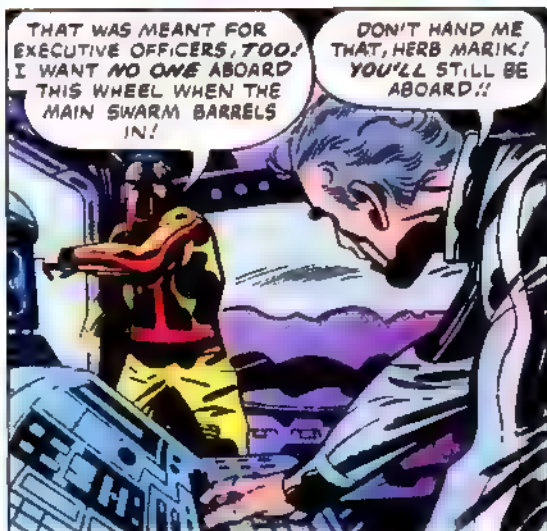
**BRAAMM!!**

THOSE METEORS  
WILL POUND US  
INTO JUNK!!  
THEY'RE AS  
BIG AS  
MOUNTAINS!



ALL PERSONNEL!  
ABANDON THE  
LIBERTY I!

THIS IS  
COMMANDER  
MARIK!! I WANT  
THAT ORDER  
OBEYED  
IMMEDIATELY!!



THAT WAS MEANT FOR  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, TOO!  
I WANT NO ONE ABOARD  
THIS WHEEL WHEN THE  
MAIN SWARM BARRELS  
IN!

DON'T HAND ME  
THAT, HERB MARIK!  
YOU'LL STILL BE  
ABOARD!!



STOW IT! DON'T MAKE ME  
PUSH YOU EVERY INCH OF  
THE WAY TO THE ESCAPE  
SHUTTLE! CARRY OUT  
MY ORDER!!

OKAY--OKAY!  
BUT I EXPECT  
YOU TO FOLLOW  
US IN A SPACE  
POD--UNDER-  
STAND?!



HERBERT MARIK DOESN'T ANSWER. HE WAITS  
IN SILENCE AS HIS STAFF LEAVES FOR THE  
SURFACE OF MARS...

THEY'VE GOT  
A CHANCE  
DOWN THERE.  
THEY'VE ONLY  
TO WAIT  
FOR  
RESCUE!

NASA CONTROL  
HAS BEEN  
CONTACTED!



A VIDEO-CHECK CONFIRMS THE DEPARTURE OF THE SURVIVORS. MARIK SIGHS. HE KNOWS THAT HE WILL NEVER FOLLOW THEM TO MARS' SURFACE.

GOOD  
LUCK AND  
GOD-SPEED  
TO YOU  
ALL!

THE MAIN FORCE OF THE METEOR SWARM WILL BE UPON THE DOOMED STATION BEFORE MARIK CAN ESCAPE. HE CALMLY SEATS HIMSELF BEFORE A LARGER SCREEN TO TAKE A LOOK AT DEATH...

ALTHOUGH THE METEORS ARE STILL TWENTY MINUTES FROM IMPACT, MAGNIFICATION REVEALS THEIR TERRIFYING NATURE. THEY ARE ALMOST PLANETOID IN SIZE...

IT WILL BE A  
SPECTACULAR  
FINALE FOR A  
TIRED WORK-  
HORSE!

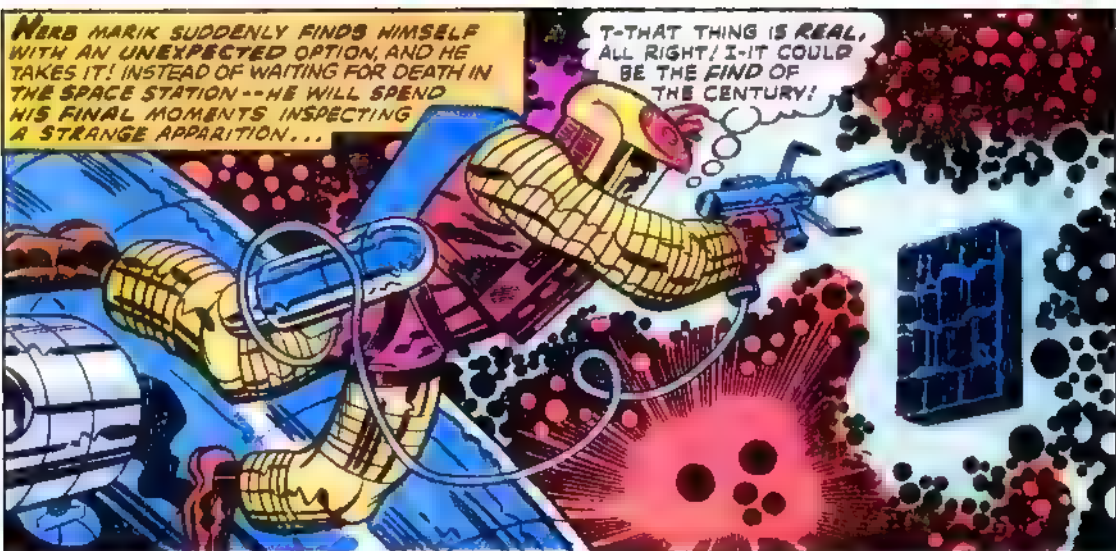
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO NOW BUT WAIT. MARIK LEANS BACK IN HIS CHAIR. HE EXPERIENCES NO REGRETS. HE IS A TWO-STAR GENERAL WHO HAS RUN EARTH'S FINEST SPACE PROJECT. THERE ARE FEW MEN WITH SIMILAR ACHIEVEMENTS TO THEIR CREDIT.

SUDDENLY, MARIK LURCHES FORWARD. THERE IS SOMETHING ON THE SCREEN--SOMETHING WHICH SHOULDN'T BE THERE! A MORE INTENT SCRUTINY DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT... THE THING IS STILL THERE--BUT WHAT IS IT?

THIS IS A FINE  
TIME FOR A GENUINE  
PUZZLER TO  
SHOW UP!!!



**NERB MARIK SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF WITH AN UNEXPECTED OPTION, AND HE TAKES IT! INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR DEATH IN THE SPACE STATION--HE WILL SPEND HIS FINAL MOMENTS INSPECTING A STRANGE APPARITION...**



**T-THAT THING IS REAL, ALL RIGHT! I-IT COULD BE THE END OF THE CENTURY!**

**THE MONOLITH IS FIXED IN ITS POSITION TO MARIK--IT SEEMS UNFATHOMABLE. HE IS UNAWARE THAT HE IS COMPLETING THE LAST STAGE OF A PLAN WHICH HAS TRANSCENDED SPACE AND TIME!**

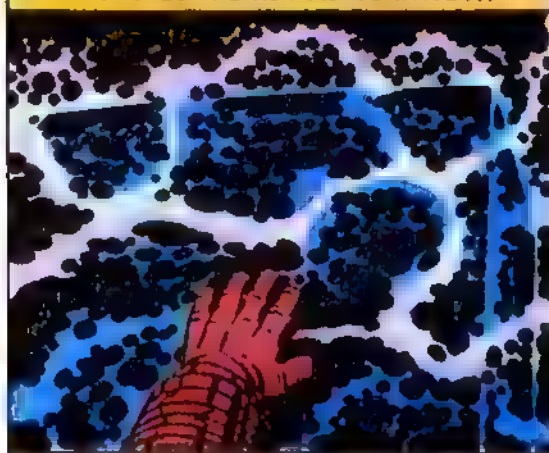


**HIS THOUGHTS RACE MADLY THROUGH HIS TORTURED MIND. THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME. DEATH IS ON ITS WAY! AND HE HAS DISCOVERED THE FIRST INDICATION OF ALIEN INTELLIGENCE!**

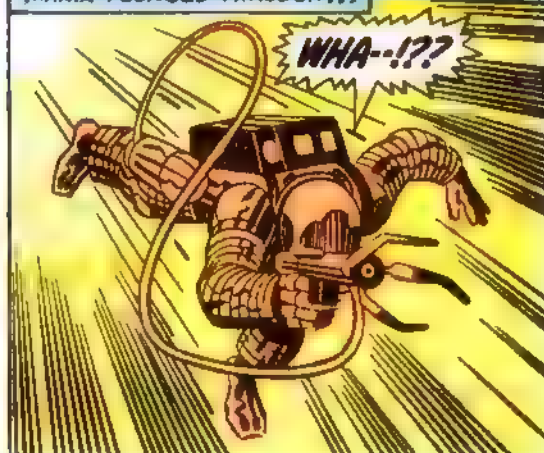
**IT'S IRONIC!! I-I'LL NEVER LIVE TO CARRY BACK THE NEWS.**



**AT THAT MOMENT, THE MONOLITH ACTIVATES! IT MAKES A SOUND THAT FILLS MARIK WITH AN ODD YEARNING. HE EXTENDS HIS HAND AND TOUCHES THE RUGGED SURFACE...**



**THEN, HE FEELS THE PULL--THE SWIFT WRENCH OF THE INFINITE--AS IT ADMITS HIM BODILY TO THE DEEPS BEYOND MAN'S KNOWLEDGE!! MARIK PLUNGES THROUGH...**



**WHA--!??**



**IT IS A LONG, LONG SLIDE INTO AN UNRECOGNIZABLE VASTNESS WHERE LIGHT BENDS AND TWISTS AND CREATES SPECTACLES ALIEN TO HERB MARIK!!**



**SIGHTS NOT MEANT FOR HUMAN EYES POUND MARIK'S SENSES AND SHATTER THE FABRIC OF HIS MIND! HE IS COMPLETELY DISORIENTED, FEAR-STRICKEN AND MESMERIZED!!!**

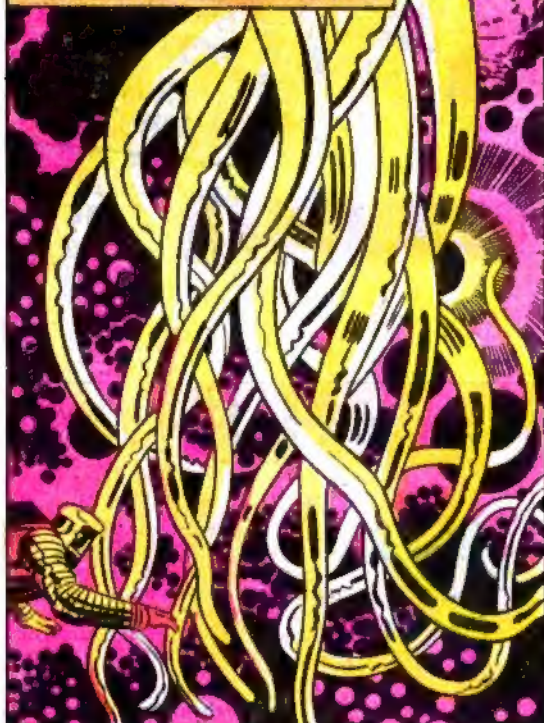


**THE TERRIBLE FALL SEEMS NEVER-ENDING!! HE IS IN THE BELLY OF SOME CYCLOPEAN, DIMENSIONAL BEAST! HE IS A MOTE IN THE BLOODSTREAM OF HADES!! MARIK SCREAMS IN TERROR!!**

**YAAAAA!!!**

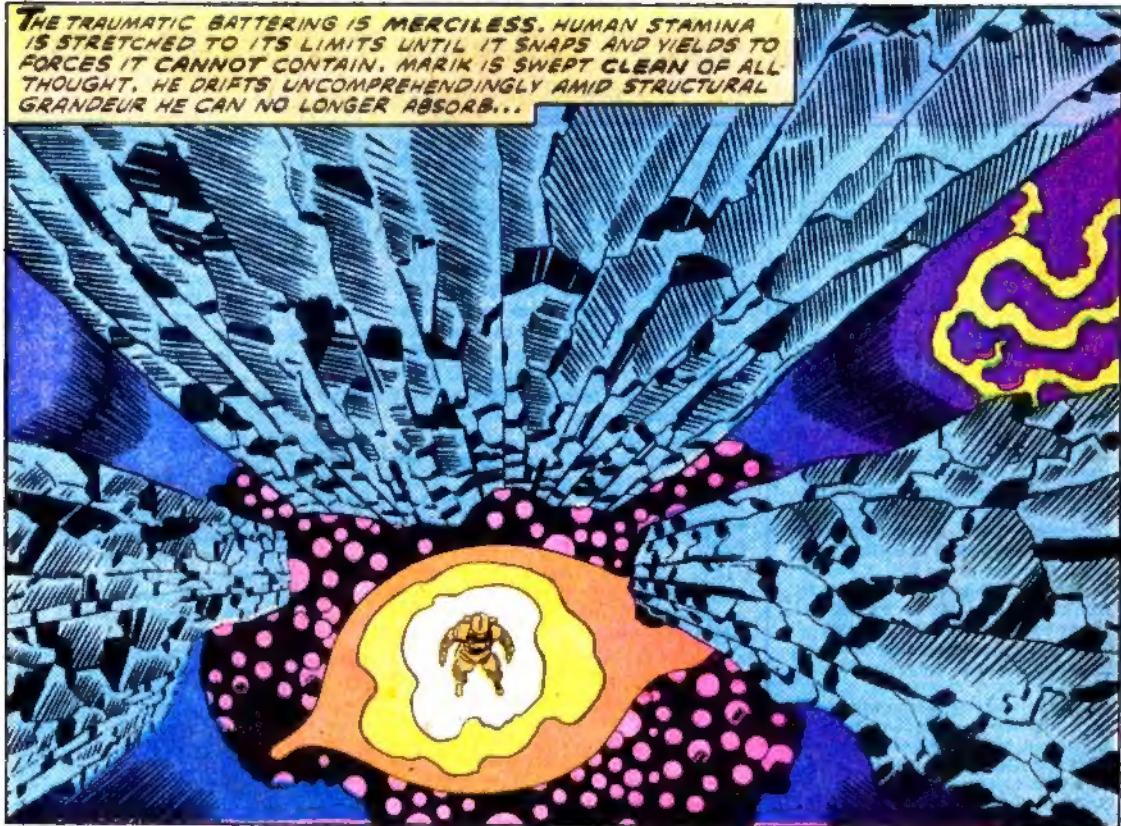


**THERE ARE NO ANSWERS TO HIS CRIES. THE DIMENSIONS ARE INDIFFERENT!! THEY OPEN WIDE BEFORE HIM AND REVEAL THINGS THAT ARE BEYOND DESCRIPTION...**





THE TRAUMATIC BATTERING IS MERCILESS. HUMAN STAMINA IS STRETCHED TO ITS LIMITS UNTIL IT SNAPS AND YIELDS TO FORCES IT CANNOT CONTAIN. MARIK IS SWEEPED CLEAN OF ALL THOUGHT. HE DRIFTS UNCOMPREHENDINGLY AMID STRUCTURAL GRANDEUR HE CAN NO LONGER ABSORB...



SUDDENLY, THERE IS A BLUE SKY AND BROAD FIELDS OF GREEN. MARIK DRIFTS GENTLY TO A SOFT LANDING ON THICK CARPET-LIKE GRASS...



HE LIES THOROUGHLY SPENT IN AN UNBELIEVABLY BEAUTIFUL HAVEN, CREATED BY THE MONOLITH FOR MARIK ALONE.

WELCOME HOME.







**MARIK AWAKENS WHEN THE WOMAN'S VOICE TOUCHES HIS BROW LIKE A GENTLE KISS. SHE IS LOVELY... INSTANTLY FAMILIAR, AND YET, MYSTERIOUS... A FACE FROM A LONG LOST DREAM.**

**I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO RETURN!**



**ALL THAT MARIK SEES IS HIS LONG LOST DREAM. BENEATH HIS TOUGH EXTERIOR, MARIK HAS ALWAYS BEEN A ROMANTIC... AND NOW THE NURTURED VISIONS OF HIS TURBULENT LIFE HAVE TRULY COME TO PASS.**



**THIS IS WHERE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE. YOU'RE THE GIRL I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE WITH. I-I'M GLAD I'M HERE... WITH YOU.**

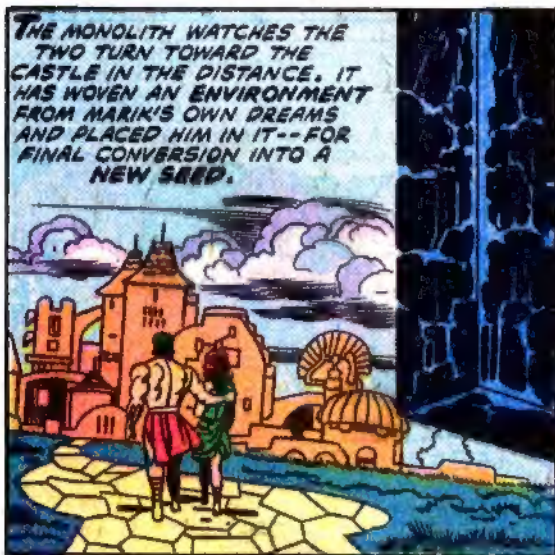
**WE'LL BE TOGETHER, YOU AND I, FOR AS LONG AS LIFE REMAINS!**

**WHAT WE HAVE IS REAL AND WONDERFUL!**

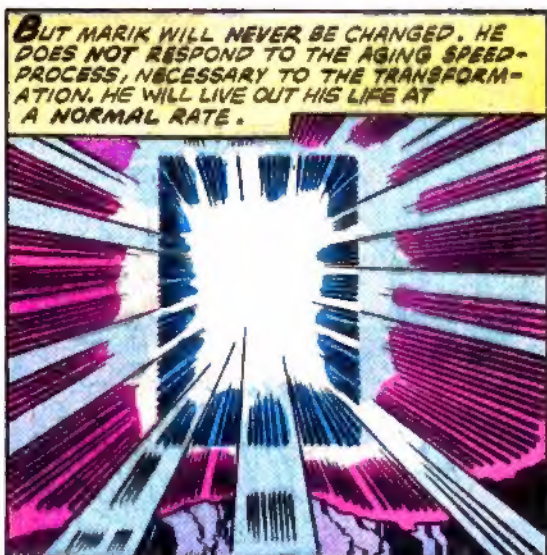


**HERB MARIK CANNOT CONTAIN THE SURGE OF SPIRIT! HE SHOUTS HIS JOY TO THE SMILING SUN. HE FEELS STRONGER THAN HE'S EVER BEEN! HE IS HAPPY BEYOND MEASURE.**

**YES! THIS IS REAL AND WONDERFUL!! AND I SHALL NEVER LEAVE IT AGAIN! I SHALL STAY HERE UNTIL THE LAST BREATH LEAVES MY BODY!!**



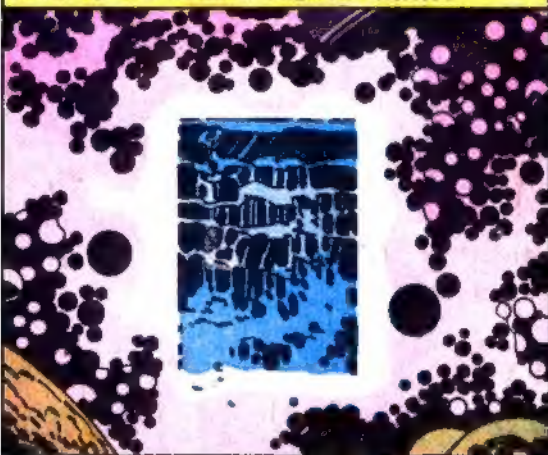
**THE MONOLITH WATCHES THE TWO TURN TOWARD THE CASTLE IN THE DISTANCE. IT HAS WOVEN AN ENVIRONMENT FROM MARIK'S OWN DREAMS AND PLACED HIM IN IT-- FOR FINAL CONVERSION INTO A NEW SEED.**



**BUT MARIK WILL NEVER BE CHANGED. HE DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE AGING SPEED-PROCESS, NECESSARY TO THE TRANSFORMATION. HE WILL LIVE OUT HIS LIFE AT A NORMAL RATE.**



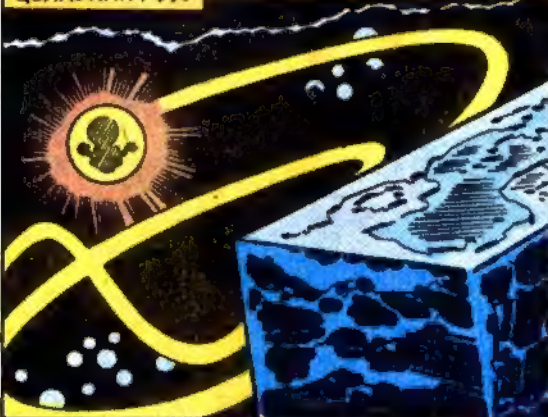
**THE MONOLITH PHASES OUT OF THE ENVIRONMENT. IT WILL VANISH ON THE DAY OF MARIK'S DEATH... FOR HE WILL REMAIN WHAT HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN: A MAN.**



**BUT THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE. THE ALIEN PURPOSE OF CREATING A NEW SEED FROM THE HUMAN SPECIES HAS KNOWN RANDOM FAILURE. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER ATTEMPT... FOR THE PROCESS MUST GO ON.**



**MAN'S DESTINY IS TO ROAM THE STARS, AND THE PROOF OF IT IS EVER PRESENT IN HIS ABILITY TO BECOME A NEW SEED. THERE ARE MANY OF THESE IN EVERY SPATIAL QUADRANT...**



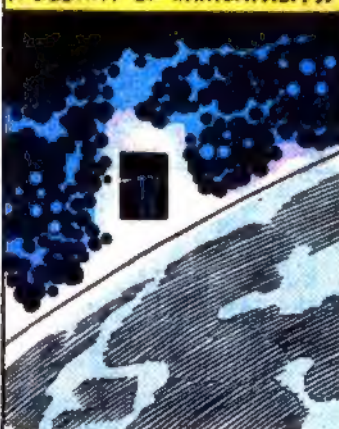
**THEY ARE LIKE FIREFLYS IN A GALACTIC FOREST, AND WHEN THEY DRAW NEAR, THEY GAZE AT THE ONLOOKER WITH EYES BOTH LARGE AND WISE...**



**THEN, THE NEW SEED IS GONE! EAGER-- IMPATIENT TO THRIVE AND DISCOVER.**



**THE MONOLITH DOES NOT ABANDON ITS TASK. IT WILL BEGIN AGAIN, AND CHOOSE THE NEXT CANDIDATE FOR A DESTINY OF IMMORTALITY.**



**ARE YOU READY FOR THIS??**

**COMING NEXT!**

**NORTON OF  
NEW YORK  
2240  
A.D.**